

TULAREMIA

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*, with a variety of clinical presentation including lymphadenopathy, with or without cutaneous ulceration, and with or without conjunctivitis; pharyngitis, sepsis, intestinal signs, pneumonic disease, and a typhoidal illness without localizing signs and symptoms.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis with laboratory confirmation
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *F. tularensis* from a clinical specimen, **OR**
 - Fourfold or greater change in agglutination titer between paired sera obtained ≥ 2 weeks apart analyzed at the same time and in the same laboratory.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form – EPID 200 (Jan/03).
 2. Kentucky Tularemia Case Report Form – EPID 200TUL.
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Source investigation by LHD - contact with potentially infected arthropods, animal hosts (especially dressing and eating wild game), and contaminated water. Cases have also been traced to exposures in clinical microbiology laboratories.
 - Patient education as needed to minimize future exposures.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH:** 502-564-3418.

- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
BRANCH: 502-564-3261.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James ed. TULAREMIA. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual.
17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 532-535.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. Tularemia In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious
Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 618-620.